

# *Pacific Pride*



For the Families and Friends of Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU Command Element

Vol. 1, Issue 6

May 2006



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## Command Element returns to Kuwait for more desert training

**CAMPBEUHRING, Kuwait**--Halfway through their six-month deployment, the Marines and sailors of the Command Element have returned to Kuwait to continue conducting desert training and to be shore based to be able to quickly respond to any need that should arise.

According to Cpl. Anthony R. Taylor, data networking specialist, he doesn't mind being back at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait and said he looks forward to getting more desert convoy operations training. Although the convoy course opened his eyes to the dangers of his environment, the skills he learned there also made him feel more comfortable as a driver knowing that he could handle himself if his convoy were ever attacked.

"The convoy training was very useful. I didn't realize the types of threats that were out there until we were given a chance to get behind the wheel and run through the course," said Taylor.

Taylor said he looks forward to receiving more training in combating improvised explosive devices and he looks forward to firing different types of weapons and practicing weapons-handling techniques.



Marines of the Command Element practice rifle marksmanship in Kuwait in April.

said Taylor.

Lance Cpl. Brittney L. Carrington, administration clerk, also looks forward to going back to Kuwait for some more time in the desert heat. It beats being on ship, she said. Carrington said she wouldn't even mind if she had to go into Iraq. Carrington was not with the 11th MEU (SOC) during the last deployment, and although she recognizes the danger in Iraq, she wouldn't mind the experience.

According to Lance Cpl. Zaneta E. Smith, paralegal, although being in a hot desert environment is never pleasant, she chooses to look at the bright side of the experience by listing the many good things about being at Camp Beuhring. "There is a lot of good food and free ice cream. Plus you can get a pedicure," she said. "You can also walk around and they have a movie tent here," said Carrington.

Life on deployment and at Camp Beuhring "is just what you make of it," said Smith.



### From the Commanding Officer

Although the last six weeks have been very busy and challenging for the Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC), our spirits remain high as we have passed the halfway point in our deployment. Recently completing our first Persian Gulf exercises, we expect the next three months of deployment to speed by as our training continues and operational tempo increases during the next several weeks.

From April 17-30, approximately 2,000 Marines and Sailors departed the ships of the Peleliu Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) to Kuwait. Udairi sustainment training involved weapons live-fire, fire support coordination, aviation training, and emphasized platoon level tactics. The training period offered comprehensive and realistic live-fire training on remote training ranges on Udari Range.

While the "grunts" were in the field, Marines and Sailors with the MEU's Command Element were supporting the troops in the field, monitoring all aspects of live-fire training, and planning the complex mission of retrograding 2,000 Marines and Sailors back to PELESG shipping.

In addition to training in the desert, The 11th MEU (SOC) also took part in the annual multinational military exercise known as "Eagle Resolve." Elements of Charlie Co., BLT 1/4, were able to conduct a mock noncombatant evacuation exercise of the United States Embassy and American citizens in the surrounding areas. Additionally, the skills of our Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) reaction team along with a security element of Charlie Co. were tested and sharpened during a mock NBC terrorist attack at Al Rayyan Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

Upon the conclusion of Eagle Resolve and while preparing for a port visit in UAE, the 11th MEU was called back to Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. We are now shore based to be able to



## S6 motivated to be back in Kuwait

By Master Sgt. Mathis B. Richard, S6 Chief

Since our last letter, the Marines of the MEU S-6 have sailed across the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and are now in the Persian Gulf. Much of April was spent preparing and taking part in sustainment training in Kuwait and for any mission that might come our way. Now that we are back in Kuwait, the Marines are happy to be off the ship and are very excited to be “in theater.” The Marines have a positive attitude and are ready to accomplish any task in our new temporary home at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

While we were aboard the ship in April, many Marines were heavily engaged in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Congratulations to Sgt. Helm and Staff Sgt. Boudreau, who recently upgraded their belt status to grey.

Now that we are back on land, just as it was during our last visit, first and foremost for the Marines was the establishment of a Command Operations Center, COC, which would provide the commander and his staff the communication systems needed to effectively manage the MEU. All sections of the S6 responded with energy, determination, and great technical skill.

The first task was to establish radio communication to allow the Marines to talk from the ranges to the COC as well as from the camp to our Navy counterparts aboard ship. Sgt. Nichols and Sgt. Reynoso supervised the installation and operation of two Very High Frequency (VHF) re-transmission sites that provided a safety “lifeline” to support the field training.

Next in line was the Joint Task Force Enabler (JTFE) Team, who installed and operated our satellite package, or “93 Van: to provide the MEU commander, the Battalion Landing Team and MEU service support group, with SECRET email, internet, messaging, and phone services while ashore.

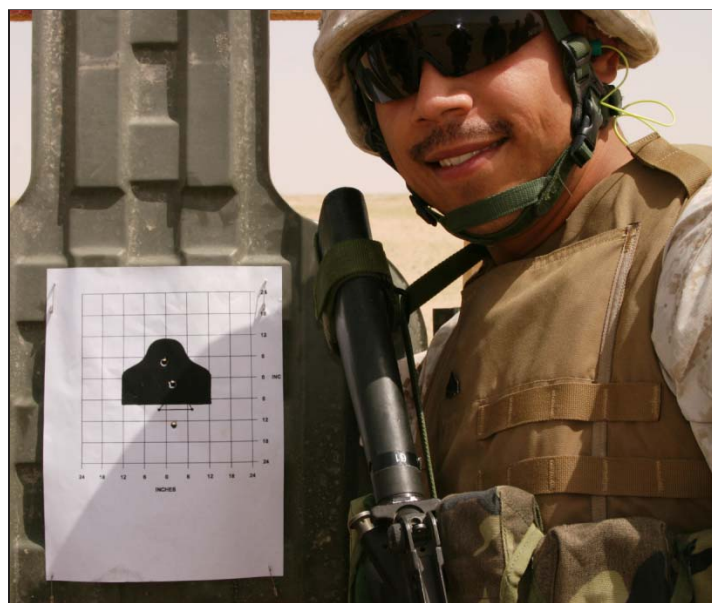
Not since TRUE and our previous visit to Camp Beuhring has the JTFE supported as robust a COC as this. Data Marines, Sgt. Wark and Cpl. Zeledon showed exceptional dedication in establishing and maintaining data and phone services throughout the training. Their support was instrumental in allowing the staff the ability to stay current with events and prepare for any contingencies.

After establishing communications, Cpl. Cruz supervised the installation and operation of the Global Broadcast Service (GBS), which can provide intelligence video or imagery. Lance Cpl. Thomas employed the Tactical Defense Messaging Suite (TDMS), which provides the ability to send and receive official naval messages while ashore. The data and satellite Marines have remained vigilant, sharpening and reinforcing their technical skills at every opportunity.

Behind the scenes of the JTFE, making plenty of noise, were the generators. Although, they are not the prettiest pieces of equipment in the inventory, without them, nothing happens. Cpl. Otero ensured the generators provided power the entire time.

The training during our previous visit to Camp Beuhring, provided an opportunity to “shake off the mental rust” after being on ship for such a long time. Every HMMWV driver and many others participated in the Army-taught Convoy Course. Three days of live fire convoy training, which included live-fire drills with vehicle-mounted weapons, reaction drills to threat scenarios, and training to maneuver out of an attacker’s line of sight. What more could a Marine want! The Marines honed their weapons skills and learned many new tactics that will be crucial if the MEU is sent into a hostile environment.

In addition, Sgt. Van, Cpl. Bournival, Cpl. Bernardy and Cpl. Dudley were assigned to the MEU Commanders Personal Security Detachment, (PSD). They participated in a great deal of training to help them accomplish their mission.



**Cpl. Jonathan Montemayor, S6, radio operator, stands next to his target after zeroing in his M16-A2 Service Rifle at one of the training areas in Udairi Range, Kuwait, during the 11th MEU's (SOC) desert sustainment training.**



## Chaplain's Corner



### The Mission and Freedom

You may remember the movie "The Mission" with Robert De Niro. De Niro plays a Spanish slave trader and mercenary by the name of Rodrigo Mendoza, in 18th-century Argentina. In the movie they show Rodrigo killing his own brother in a lover's triangle. After this event he experiences a great deal of remorse. His life, he knows is one of depravity and sin, so he seeks redemption with the Jesuit missionaries.

Mendoza finds Father Gabriel and they agree on a penance: Mendoza will accompany the brothers to their new mission in a mountain jungle. During this trip to the mountains, Mendoza must drag behind him a net containing all his armor, symbolizing the life he seeks to leave behind.

The journey is long, painful, and slow. The brothers go to Father Gabriel and confront him about Mendoza's penance. They all believe Mendoza has done enough penance. "But he doesn't think so," Father Gabriel replies, "and until he does, neither do I."

Now, as they approach the last leg of their journey, the Jesuits and Mendoza scale a dangerous cliff along a waterfall. Mendoza fights to scale the great height with the weight of the armor threatening to pull him into the wild river below. Above him at the top of the falls, the Indians recognize Mendoza. At this point, we are all on the edge of our seats, but an Indian steps forward with a machete and cuts the rope that frees Mendoza. The entire armor with the weight and net plunges into the river.

At that moment Mendoza breaks into tears. He is welcomed by the Indians and forgiven by his new brothers. The anger, remorse, and sin are drained from him as he begins a new life at the mission.

Many of us carry many things around in life that drag us down on our journey to God. We allow people to live rent free in our minds because of hate, anger and revenge. We also pursue those things that distract us from the real joys and meaning of life, distorting our vision of the world as God created it to be.

We must drive out of our lives whatever distracts us from God and restore a sense of perspective in order to realize the true joy, and hope of God's presence in our lives. Truth leads to faith and true faith to freedom. Faith is produced by the truth; for faith rests on things that truly are and the link between freedom and truth is the reality of God in our lives.



(Center) Petty Officer 1st Class Cleo H. Custodio, S1, religious programmer, and Lt. Cmdr. Paul J. Shaughnessy, 11th MEU (SOC) Chaplain, pose with religious planners from Camp Beuhring's reserve chapel staff. The reserve chaplain assistants are stationed in Germany and have been at Camp Beuhring since November 2005.

"We are all on the same page as far as terms and understanding the ministry. We had a great fellowship with them and they let us get involved with many of their programs. They were very skilled and working with them was such a wonderful experience," said Custodio.

### Command from page 2

quickly respond to any need that should arise. But this does not necessarily mean that we will be going into Iraq. While we are in Kuwait, Marines and Sailors will continue sustainment training and planning future, previously scheduled, exercises.

We've been gone for more than 90 days and we're more than halfway home. The Marines and Sailors are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. However, there is still much work ahead. From here we will remain in the Persian Gulf region where our mission continues to be one of presence and training to execute any tasking that we might be given. We will update you as events occur.

Thank you for your many e-mails and your continued prayers and support. Be proud of your Sailors and Marines who make up America's Force in Readiness.

Please keep in touch with your Key Volunteers for the latest update or visit our home page at [www.usmc.mil/11thmeu](http://www.usmc.mil/11thmeu).

Semper Fidelis,  
Col. J.W. Bullard



## S4, Supply keeps MEU going half way through deployment

By Maj. Kevin C. Rosen, S4 Officer

By the time you read this we will finally be past the mid-point of WESTPAC 06-01! We have missed our families very much, but we continue to complete the mission in order to keep the world a little safer. As I have stated before, your Marines are performing magnificently. It always amazes me to see what they accomplish and their dedication to each other and the job at hand.

Over the past month we have sailed the sea and trained hard in the desert. Embarkation played a huge role in successfully planning and executing the off-load of nearly 2,000 Marines and sailors and their equipment like HMMWVs, trucks, tanks, AAVs, LAVs, and helicopters. It was our largest offload to date and they did it as close to perfect as you can. Well done!

A huge pat on the back goes out to Gunnery Sgt. Brian D. Savant. His tireless effort in dealing with multiple agencies to coordinate our external logistics needs was extraordinary. He organized the movement of all our vehicles whether they were moving themselves or being taken by a semi-truck. And you know what? He moved everything to the training area in 48 hours and he got everything back to the port and washed and inspected in four days so that we could sail to our next exercise. Great job!

Have I mentioned the hard chargers in the supply section? Supply Marines were intimately involved in all aspects of our training and offload. Providing valuable support with obtaining repair parts, washing and driving vehicles, your Marines kept the logistic support running for the Command Element and were essential to the other elements. Thanks for making sure all aspects of the mission were completed.

We hope that all is well on the home front and that our children are being good. Mother's Day just passed, so for those Moms at home, thanks for being patient. We will get your Marines and Sailors home as soon as possible. And for Maj. Fitzgerald on Mother's Day, just know that your wife misses you and your little rugger! You are all in our prayers.



The S4/Supply family pose for a picture during Gunnery Sgt. Rick Garcia's birthday gathering at the Supply office space. The celebration was held on a Sunday, the same day of the Steel Beach picnic. Although they work in different parts of the USS Peleliu, the Marines and sailors of the section always come together during special occasions.



(L-R) HM1 (FMF/AW) Marissa A. Mueller, HM2 (FMF) Angelia N. Roberts, HN (FMF) Jonathon B. Solonar, MSSG-11 corpsmen, were selected by the MEU commander as sailors of the quarter for their leadership, morality, and professionalism.

## MEU recognizes outstanding Sailors

By HMCN Michael J. Smith, MEU Medical Planner

Sailors serving with the 11TH MEU (SOC) were recently recognized for their superlative efforts when the MEU conducted its first ever Sailor of the Quarter Board. Congratulations to the following MEU Sailors on their selection as Senior (E6), Junior (E5/4), or Bluejacket (E3 and below) of the Quarter, 1st Quarter, Calendar Year 2006.

Senior Sailor of the Quarter: HM1(FMF/AW) Marissa A. Mueller, MSSG-11.

Junior Sailor of the Quarter: HM2(FMF) Angelia N. Roberts, MSSG-11.

Bluejacket of the Quarter: HN(FMF) Jonathan B. Solonar, MSSG-11.

The award is designed to recognize enlisted U.S. Navy personnel, E6 and below, who have contributed significantly to the mission effectiveness of their unit. Selection as Sailor of the quarter indicates that the member possesses the leadership, morality, and professionalism, which embody the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

## ‘Money Guys’ bring ‘A’ game to desert training in Kuwait

The 11th MEU Disbursing Team has been busy at work for the last few months, dutifully manning the prison bars of the Disbo office. Although the office space is relatively small compared to some of the other ship spaces, we seem to get by all right. Between managing the Marine Cash system and split pay, and working travel claims and service reenlistment bonus packages, the team still finds time to have some fun and stay upbeat.

When not working on his 20-plus pull-ups, Cpl. Omar Lozano can often be found daydreaming of his lowrider Chevy Impala and the many cars that he’ll someday own. Lance Cpl. Jason A. Webster has also been hitting the weights and playing the part of DJ Disbo on his iTunes program.

All Staff Sgt. Keith “Blue” Rodriguez can do is shake his head at his motivated Marines and say, “Those crazy youngsters! Back in my day, in the old Corps ...” However old he may be, he just celebrated his 34th by the way, the motivated staff sergeant still brings his “A” game both to the office and to the gym, leading his young devil dogs the whole way. And 1st Lt. Sean Mulcahy, although rarely seen outside the office walls, has been known to wait in the basic warrior stance for days at a time to fend off the possibility of one of Chaplain Shaughnessy’s break-in attempts. He can also be found in the gym now and again.

The “Money Guys” definitely look forward to what the MEU has in store for the future and the possibility of their next liberty port.



Lance Cpl. Jason A. Webster, one of “those crazy youngsters” from the disbursing section takes some time off from his training in the ranges of Udairi, Kuwait to pose for a picture.

### Happy May Birthdays

Lance Cpl. Ashley Milburn  
Lance Cpl. Andre Thomas  
Lance Cpl. Thomas Zinniger  
Cpl. Stephanie Bliss  
Cpl. Ruben Calderon  
Cpl. Alvin Clausen  
Cpl. Matthew MacArthur  
Cpl. Justin Noe

Sgt. Christopher Antonik  
Sgt. Anthony Hodge  
Sgt. Adam Mahan  
Sgt. Trisha Pollard  
Sgt. Andrew Wark  
Staff Sgt. Bradford Scott  
Gunnery Sgt. Robert Blankenship

Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Clarke  
Gunnery Sgt. Rick Garcia  
Gunnery Sgt. Preston Scholz  
Master Gy. Sgt. Karl Vordahl  
Capt. Bradley Bean  
Maj. George Malkasian  
Maj. Thomas Impellitteri  
Lt. Col. Neil Schuehle

### May Promotions

Cpl. Ryan Heist

1st Lt. Andrea Newhouse

Capt. Michael Hallinan



## S3 gets fired-up in Kuwait

By Lt. Col. Neil Schuehle

When we last spoke, we were preparing to make a port call on the island country of Singapore. For five days, the S3 enjoyed the sites, sounds and history of the “Lion City” — from dining on chow mein in Chinatown, to enjoying Singapore Slings at Raffles, to checking out the nightlife on Orchard Road.

On April 1, we pulled out of port and began our journey to the Persian Gulf. For the next two weeks, the S3 continued to plan, train and prepare the MEU and ourselves to work with the US Central Command and to conduct training at Udairi Range, Kuwait. Finally, on April 13, the S3 arrived at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and after a few days of acclimatization, got out into the sun and sand to shoot on the first-rate Udairi ranges. The ten-day package was a success for the entire MEU and on April 28 we left the desert and re-embarked aboard the USS Peleliu. Eagle Resolve, a multinational

exercise hosted by the country of Qatar, followed our training in Kuwait. The S3 coordinated and participated in a mock reinforcement and evacuation of the US Embassy on May 8 - 9 and also assisted the Qatari Government in transporting “casualties” following a simulated chemical attack at a sports stadium on May 10. Once again, the exercise was a success and the MEU returned to its ships with mission accomplished.

Right now we are extremely busy continuing to plan a variety of exercises for our visit to Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. Do not worry - once we get the chance, we will drop you a line!

## S1 Marines’ first desert experience successful, look forward to second

By Lance Cpl. Brittney L. Carrington

As we are half way through West Pac 06-1, the adventure has just begun. The S1 Marines have experienced and successfully completed various exercises since we last updated you.

On April 13, we off-loaded our gear from the USS Peleliu and headed to shore in Kuwait. While Kuwait was a familiar sight for some, many of us were being introduced to desert life for the first time. In addition to familiarizing ourselves with Camp Buehring, Kuwait, and performing our primary duties, the S1 Marines also got the chance to take part in conducting convoy operations training and

small-arms handling drills on Udairi range. All of which were extremely interesting and educational.

We look forward to participating in and supporting the various missions and adventures that await us as we forge ahead on the remainder of our deployment. Thank you all for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.



(Right) Capt. Todd D. McCarthy, S3, force fires officer, helps Cpl. Trisha Rodriguez, food service specialist, Headquarters Commandant, adjust her front sight post at one of the Udairi training ranges during desert sustainment training in Kuwait.

The following S1 Marines celebrated their birthday over the course of the past couple of months: Cpl. Salvador Verduzco on April 6, Staff Sgt. Keith Rodriguez on April 17, Cpl. Irene Chan on April 21, Cpl. Stephanie Bliss on May 3, and Staff Sgt. Michael Heard on May 11.

Capt. Ed B. Tomlinson, adjutant, prepares to fire his M16-A2 Service Rifle during desert sustainment training at the Udairi Range near Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, in April. The Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU conducted their sustainment training just before reaching the half-way point of their WestPac 06-01 deployment.

## **Intel Marines get pistol, rifle, refresher, IED training in Kuwait**

Like the rest of the MEU, the S2 Section spent the most memorable part of April ashore at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, for desert sustainment training. The sustainment training consisted of the Tactical Movement Counter-IED Training that tested the Marines quick reaction to improvised explosive device and enemy ambushes.

The S2 Marines also refreshed their pistol and rifle skills in two small-arms ranges. Some Marines from the Radio Battalion Detachment also participated in demolitions training and crew-served weapons firing ranges held by the Battalion Landing Team. Radio Battalion detachment also overcame everything from plagues of locusts and flashfloods to technical challenges to establish its Operations Control Element. What still isn't entirely clear is why they couldn't set up next to the MEU headquarters, and instead needed to set up next to the tees of the base driving range.

The meteorological detachment has continued its usual stellar job assessing storm systems and weather patterns, even winning a bet with the CO on a forecast; as Staff Sgt. Mills is known to say, "that's rock solid across the board!"

Overall, the Marines were glad to be able to make phone calls home, use the camp exchange and sleep in air conditioning tents when they were not training. Factor in that the chow was plentiful and good, it was a pretty good life.

Since Kuwait, Marines of the section have stayed busy with the usual rigors of ship life and MEU mission planning support. Also, teams from the section supported Exercise Eagle Resolve in Qatar and US Navy vessels performing security operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

The S2 would also like to extend a belated congratulations to Gunnery Sgt. and Mrs. Hayes on the birth of James Hayes March 18. James weighed in at a whopping 9 lbs and 6 ounces! Finally, as always, we all wish to thank all loved ones and friends who have been emailing and sending packages.

The S2 would like to congratulate Gunnery Sgt. Preston Scholz and Staff Sgt Christopher Farnes. Gunnery Sgt. Scholz, who serves as the detachment staff noncommissioned-officer-in-charge re-enlisted April 11. Staff Sgt. Farnes was promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant April 1. Staff Sgt. Farnes serves as the Geo-Spatial analyst for the S2.



**Lance Cpl. Christopher D. Aleman and Cpl. Nicholas D. Jones, flush the front sight post of their M16-A2 Service Rifles at Udairi Range in Kuwait during desert sustainment training.**



## **SJA takes on desert sustainment training**

The 11th MEU SJA Section is continuously staying busy with everything from our ashore training period in Kuwait, supporting exercises in Qatar, to the overall legal matters of the MEU across three ships. We are also staying very busy with the 11th MEU deployed education college program. Many don't realize it, but Maj. Christopher Walters and Lance Cpl. Zaneta Smith head up this program for the MEU. College classes such as Criminal Justice, Government, Psychology and Public Speaking are being offered to the Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU, allowing anyone interested to continue their college goals. Our initial enrollment numbers have dropped somewhat, but we currently have more than 150 students taking classes with Central Texas College.



## HQCMDT 'gym-a-holics' get in shape during desert training

The Headquarters Commandant (HQCMDT) Section stayed busy doing various tasks as the MEU deployed to Kuwait during the month of April. We finally got the whole section together to take group photos. Master Sgt. Kevin Bonds celebrated his birthday on the ship while Cpl. Trisha Rodriguez baked an outstanding pineapple cake. Master Sgt. Bonds also went on the advanced party to Kuwait to ensure the Marines had billeting and made sure maintenance problems were taken care of.

Staff Sgt. Gustavo M. Lucio also celebrated a birthday. Unfortunately, we were in Kuwait and all he received for his birthday was a pulled hamstring muscle from playing football.

Staff Sgt. Robert B. Callahan maintained and ran the maintenance program and assisted with the upkeep of the motor transport assets within the Command Element. Staff Sgt. Callahan also assisted Master Sgt. Bonds with the camp working parties and work orders for the Marines living quarters. While on ship, he continued with his roll as the smoke-pit boss, occasionally shutting down the smoke pit temporarily. Luckily for smokers, Staff Sgt. Callahan is also a smoker, so chances are slim that he will shut down the smoke pit for any extended period of time.

Smokers and others got a chance to get back at Staff Sgt. Callahan and Staff Sgt. Lucio when both staff sergeants "volunteered" to take part in the Pie in the Eye toss, sponsored by the 1st Class Association on the ship. During the toss, Marines were allowed to buy a cream pie to throw at their "favorite" staff noncommissioned officer, to raise money for a worthy cause. Both staff sergeants raised a lot of money.

Sgt. Jorge F. Guardado and Sgt. Albert G. Alaniz, the mechanics, fixed vehicles and trained in convoy operations. Sgt. Coy Loftin and Sgt. Alaniz also conducted training with the High Risk Personnel Protection platoon.

During our last visit to Kuwait in April, newly promoted Sgt. Samuel A. Schauer deployed the armory ashore. Sgt. Steven Sparks joined us in Kuwait just in time to assist the section with the retrograde back to the ship, which included an outstanding gear and vehicle "wash down" at Kuwait Naval Base. While at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, Cpl. Rodriguez along with others in the section took turns driving the Command Element shuttle bus through the camp. She took part in the convoy operations course and was the commanding officer's driver. Cpl. Rodriguez also assisted Master Sgt. Bonds with the working party Marines.

As for PT (Physical Training) most of the HQCMDT section continued to be gym-a-holics. Most went to the gym on a daily basis to improve their physique. As they say "to kill some time and stay in shape."

Overall, Headquarters Commandant Section continues to push forward to support the Command Element and the MEU as a whole. That's one of the reasons why some HQCMDT Marines say "The Headquarters Commandant Section is the best section in the Command Element."



Staff Sgts. Gustavo M. Lucio and Robert B. Callahan, from Headquarters Commandant Section, are two of several staff sergeants who "volunteered" to get a pie in the face to raise money for a good cause in May.

### S6 cont. from page 3

Our last visit to Kuwait wasn't all work however. Marines enjoyed all of the camp's many amenities. The chow hall was excellent, and the camp hosted a gourmet coffee shop, Baskin Robbins, Subway, Taco Bell, Pizza Inn, and Burger King. As the old, self-mocking Marine Corps saying goes, "every day is a holiday and every meal is a feast." Marines shopped in the stores to purchase ever-popular "MONSTER" caffeine drinks, iPods, and DVD's. The stores quickly sold out of "MONSTER" when the Marines of 11th MEU arrived.

Congratulations to Sgt. Pollard and Sgt. Hodge, whose musical talents are included in the recent compact

disk, "Voices from the Front Line," which was released nationally on April 25. Congratulation also goes out to Staff Sgt. Webb for his reenlistment for four years. The Marine Corps is better because of your reenlistment.

In closing, we would like to thank all of the families and loved ones who loyally support the Marines, at home and while deployed. Without your loving support and sacrifice none of this would be possible. Mail is arriving more frequently and consistently. Thank you for all of the letters, magazines, and care packages. They are appreciated by all! Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful). And for those of us who forgot to send a card...Happy Mother's Day!

## *11th MEU (SOC) training at Udairi Range...*



*Kuwait*







## *Steel Beach Picnic...*



Marine sumo wrestlers from the Command Element battle it out during a Steel Beach Picnic aboard the Peleliu. This was one of the many fun and physical events the Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC) conducted.



Marines and Sailors of the 11th MEU (SOC) unwind from their busy schedule with a game of soccer during a Steel Beach picnic aboard the Peleliu in May. Food, drinks and fun for all was plentiful.



Command Element Marines enjoy a day off during a Steel Beach Picnic aboard the USS Peleliu in May.



## Life on the Peleliu...



Staff Sgt. Michael Webb gets a “Pie in the Eye” by his fellow S6 Marine Sgt. Kisha Pollard. During the Pie in the Eye, Marines and sailors paid money for the right to throw a pie in the face of their “favorite” volunteer staff noncommissioned officers.

After his reenlistment ceremony, Staff Sgt. Michael Webb, S6, is given a cake as a token of his section’s appreciation. “The Marine Corps is better because of (his) reenlistment,” said Master Sgt. Mathis Richard, S6 chief.



Birthday Boy Gunnery Sgt. Rick Garcia, supply chief, cuts a piece of cake for each member of his crew during his birthday party aboard the Peleliu in May.



Celebrating his 34th birthday, Staff Sgt. Michael Heard, S1, postal chief, holds a cake presented to him by his section. Heard is one of the 22 Marines from the Command Element celebrating their birthday this month in the Persian Gulf.



# *Pacific* *Pride*

13

*The MEU returns...*



*to  
Kuwait*





COMMANDING OFFICER  
11TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT  
UNIT 42520  
FPO AP 96610-2520  
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

## Change of Address

If your address or phone number changes, please complete this form and mail it to the address below:

**11TH MEU (PAO)**  
**UNIT 42520**  
**FPO AP 96610-2520**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

**11th MEU Mailing Address:**  
GRADE NAME USMC  
**11TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT**  
UNIT 42520  
FPO AP 96610-2520